has been announced during EAM's visit to Washington D.C. on April 13-14,2005. The energy dialogue that the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, and Energy Secretary Bodman will lead together recognizes the importance of addressing growing energy demands while taking into account their environmental implications. The three main components are: civil nuclear energy, hydrocarbons and cleaner technologies.

On March 25, 2005, the US Under Secretary for Defence communicated approval for US companies to respond to the Indian Request for Information (RFI) for the Multi Role Combat aircraft tender.

The United States had proposed a Joint Working Group on Space Cooperation between our two countries. During the visit of EAM to Washington D.C. on April 13-14, 2005, the two sides announced the establishment of a Joint Working Group on Space Cooperation and agreed on its terms of reference. Our goal is to promote synergies in all aspects of space collaboration, including statellite fabrication and launch.

(d) These subjects remain under discussion. Government will take decisions on matters relating to nuclear energy and defence based on India's national interest.

Joining of Container Security initiative

3136. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will **the** Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the pursuance of the decision to joint the U.S.-led Container Security Initiative, Government proposed to send an inter-Ministerial team to Washington to work out modalities for operation of the partnership;

(b) if so, whether such **a** team has since been sent to the US and the outcome of their visit; and

(c) what are the precise objectives of the "Initiative" and what benefits are likely to accrue to India thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The Committee of Secretaries approved negotiations for the introduction of the Container Security Initiative

at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai as a pilot project on 23 December 2004 with the participation of all relevant Departments and Agencies.

(b) An Inter-ministerial team visited USA on 28 February-02 March 2005 to hold discussion on the introduction of the Container Security Initiative arrangements at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port as a pilot project on a reciprocal basis. A team from USA is likely to visit India in the near future to hold further discussions on the matter.

(C) The introduction of Container Security Initiative arrangements is expected to minimize the risk of containers being used to ship dangerous cargo, including weapons of mass destruction. Its collateral benefit would be detection of various methods of trade fraud. Conversely, the non-introduction of Container Security Initiative arrangements could jeopardize the movement of containers to India's largest trading partner, the United States.

China's support to India for UN Seat

3137. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has openly supported India's claim of permanent UN Security Council Seat with Veto power;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how this announcement brighten India's chances of getting a permanent seat in Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) In the Joint Statement signed during the state visit of the Chinese Premier Mr. Wen Jiabao to India from March 9-12,2005, the Chinese side "reiterated that India is an important developing country and is having an increasingly important inflence in the international arena. China attaches great importance to the status of India in international affairs. It understands and supports India's aspirations to play an active role in the UN and international affairs." Decisions on reforms of the UN Security Council are to be considered by the entire membership of the UN and accordingly views of any country have to be seen in this perspective.